



Rochester's Committee on Urban Design & Environment · 2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 100 · Rochester, MN 55904

The Committee on Urban Design and Environment (CUDE) met at 11:30 AM on Thursday, March 18, 2010 in Room 320 City Hall, Rochester, MN.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gail Eadie, Mark Engel, Sandi Goslee, Jim Judisch, Lindsey Meek, Roger Nelson, Dave Peterson, Brian Smidt, Terry Spaeth, Susan Strandberg, Jean Weathers-Lowin

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dick Abraham, Nora Dooley, Mark Jasmin, Stephan Lewis, Zach Thaler

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order at 11:35. The February minutes were unanimously approved.

Brian Smidt introduced himself as the new CUDE member; Brian is the director of Charter House.

Referral Notices

None

Notes of Appreciation

None

NEW BUSINESS

Current and Upcoming Projects at the Planning Department – Phil Wheeler, Director

Mr. Wheeler began his presentation by discussing the Planning Department's work program and history. He provided some details on the Downtown Mobility Project as an issue CUDE may be interested in; there will be a big increase in the number of people downtown but no new right-of-way will be added. There's a need to accommodate transportation means other than by automobile.

Mr. Wheeler went on to discuss Article II of CUDE's By-laws as the interface between CUDE and the Planning Department. He stated that he sees CUDE contributing to the development of new Restrictive/Incentive Development standards and guidelines. Ms. Eadie asked for some clarification on the "Environment" part of CUDE's name. Mr. Wheeler responded that he believes CUDE's goal should be to evaluate development in terms of the highest design standards. Pure environmental questions are not really the purview of CUDE; how urban design works with the environment is where CUDE comes in.

With regard to the agencies listed in Article IIF (groups for which CUDE should act as a link, referral, and advocacy agency), Mr. Wheeler stated that he sees everything being driven by the Rochester City Council and the City Planning and Zoning Commission (CPZC); CUDE would work with the Rochester design community, Rochester Area Builders, and the Rochester Downtown Alliance to reach the directives of the Council and CPZC.

The discussion turned to the Downtown Master Plan that is underway. Mr. Wheeler stated that guidelines and a willingness to say NO when warranted should be a result of this plan. The University of Minnesota-Rochester is making a significant investment in and commitment to the City of Rochester with expectation that certain urban design principles will be adhered to. The City must hold up their end of that commitment in return.

It was suggested that an editing of Article II of CUDE's By-laws be added to an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Wheeler then gave a “Planning 101” explanation so all present would understand the relationship among the City’s Comprehensive Plan, master plans, and other plans. Mr. Engel asked how CUDE can help ensure that the plans are heeded. Mr. Wheeler responded that CUDE can help on the technical end by advising on ordinance development and on the political end through communication with the City Council.

It was suggested that Jeff Ellerbusch of the Planning Department be invited to an upcoming meeting so CUDE can find out how to assist with the Second Street Master Plan project.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Adjourn – 1:05. Next meeting will be at 11:30 on April 15th in Room 320 City Hall.